



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Agencies Sign Agreement to Expedite Permit Evaluation on Transportation Projects in Ohio**

Columbus, Ohio –The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), are signing an interagency cooperative agreement to ensure priority Corps review of Ohio transportation projects. The cooperative agreement provides a framework for the agencies to streamline environmental review processes, while providing for the protection of aquatic resources in Ohio. The goal is to achieve timely permit decisions with safe, economical and environmentally-sound highway design and improvements. The agreement funds dedicated Corps staff to evaluate transportation program initiatives in the state of Ohio.

“This funding enables us to continue to improve the effectiveness of aquatic resource protection and the efficiency of transportation permit reviews and decision making in this program,” said John Paul Woodley Jr., Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

The cooperative agreement preserves the authorities and responsibilities of each agency while encouraging early and close interagency coordination, enhanced regulatory consistency, and streamlined regulatory processes to the extent allowed by statute and regulation.

“The Federal Highway Administration is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment through cooperation with our local, state and federal partners and our stewardship of the Federal-Aid Highway Program. This agreement is instrumental in delivering our program by streamlining the environmental and permitting processes. It will allow for the priority review of transportation projects in Ohio while protecting our valuable aquatic resources,” said Dennis Decker, Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration’s Ohio Division Office

“By establishing a single Corps District Office in Ohio to review transportation projects this agreement will afford ODOT a more consistent, streamlined, and cost efficient project development process,” said Gordon Proctor, Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The Corps is responsible for regulating proposed activities in waters of the U.S. under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Prior to this agreement, four Corps districts in Buffalo, Huntington, Louisville and Pittsburgh handled the review and processing of Ohio transportation project applications. The agreement designates a single Corps point of contact, the Huntington District, for the review and evaluation of all Ohio transportation projects. The other three Corps Districts will continue to have regulatory jurisdiction and authority in Ohio on non-ODOT related projects.

Corps regulatory information is at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/>  
Ohio Department of Transportation can be found at <http://dot.state.oh.us/>

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